

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 7 (beginning on line 27) and 8 (ending on line 5) with the following paragraph:

When a fortified beverage according to this invention is a fruit-flavored beverage, water-soluble and water-dispersible flavoring agents, both natural and synthetic, can be used, including, for example, commercially available fruit drink flavoring agents ~~[[for]]~~. Common fruit flavoring materials useful in this invention include, for example, orange oil, lime oil, lemon oil, and the like. Other flavoring materials also can be found in published formulation recipes for fruit drinks. Also, natural fruit juice concentrates can be added to the beverages to provide or accentuate the fruit flavoring desired. These concentrates typically will be in liquid, pulped, or syrup forms. A fruit juice concentrate generally contains at least about 45 percent fruit juice.

Please replace the paragraph spanning pages 10 (beginning on line 24) and 11 (ending on line 2) with the following paragraph:

As discussed above, the iron-fortified beverages of this invention include powdered beverage mixes and ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages. Whether prepared as RTD or reconstituted beverages, the ferric EDTA used in fortifying ~~[[in]]~~ beverages according to this invention is highly bioavailable. Indeed, it is comparable to ferrous sulfate, normally considered the universal standard for iron bioavailability. Indeed, in the presence of dietary inhibitors such as phytate or phytic acid, the iron associated with ferric EDTA is even more available than the iron in ferrous sulfate. Moreover, ferric EDTA does not result in the unpleasant organoleptic attributes normally ~~of the U.S. DV for iron per fluid ounce of the beverage~~ associated with ferrous sulfate.